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like to introduce some groups in the balcony. We have 35 state and local government class students from Northeast Community Technical College in Norfolk, Nebraska. Roger Schafer, Political Science Instructor is in charge of this group and that is in Senator Boughn's District and we also in the South balcony have another state college group from Kearney, 11 students in the Journalism class, from Senator Cope's District. Happy to have both of you groups here. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this bill was requested by the Department of Agriculture because of the recent outbreaks of tuberculosis in dairy herds that have occurred in the last year. The bill does two things. First, it increases the state indemnity from \$25 to \$50 and that should have a total fiscal impact upon the budget of \$16,000. Secondly, it provides that dairy herds will be tested every three years rather than every six and the reason for this is that with the mobile movement we have in the livestock industry today and with the recent outbreaks, the Department felt that it would be very advantageous not only to the livestock producer, of course, but to protect the health and safety of the people of the State of Nebraska if these herds were subject to tests every three years rather than every six. They felt it was important enough to mail to members of the committee and ask us to introduce the bill and I had the bill drafted and I would request that you would give us the 30 votes necessary to introduce the bill.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I understand now the state makes a payment to the slaughters of livestock who will find suddenly that they have an animal affected with tuberculosis, isn't that right, Senator Schmit, and that you are wanting to raise that from \$25 to \$50? Senator Schmit, may I have your attention please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, the farmer gets the payment, Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Pardon me.

SENATOR SCHMIT: The farmer gets the payment.

SENATOR NICHOL: My purpose in asking you a question is why should we single out a single disease in an animal to compensate him for it rather than not pay him at all. If it gets encephalitis or whatever else cattle get, we don't pay him anything for that. Why should we pay him for this?

SENATOR SCHMIT: First of all, it is a communicable disease. They can even communicate it to humans, Senator Nichol, and secondly, the herd can become infected through a variety of ways that are not the fault of the farmer or the dairyman, and third, as I said earlier, we have at the present time an indemnity program in operation for \$25. The increased value of the livestock today still leaves the farmer, the dairyman, suffering from considerable loss so the Department recommended the \$50 figure, and third,